



ZACHARY A. "RED" STRATE, New Orleans builder who was convicted of conspiracy and fraud along with Teamster Union President James Hoffa, and **PERSHING GERVAIS** (right, rear), former chief investigator for District Attorney Jim Garrison, are shown en route to federal grand jury meeting here today.

U.S. Jury Quizzes 4 in Hoffa Case

A federal grand jury heard testimony from four persons today in its investigation into allegations of a conspiracy to free Teamster Union President James R. Hoffa from prison.

Appearing today before the grand jury were New Orleans builder Zachary A. "Red" Strate; television newsman Walter Sheridan; New Orleans Attorney Edward M. Baldwin; and Pershing Gervais, former investigator for Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison.

THE GRAND jury is investigating allegations that Baton Rouge Teamster Union official Edward Grady Partin was offered bribes to change his testimony which was instrumental in sending Teamster president James R. Hoffa to prison on a jury-tampering charge.

Strate was convicted along with Hoffa of conspiracy and fraud in another trial in 1964.

Strate testified at a Chicago federal court hearing last month that Sheridan offered to aid him if Strate would help discredit Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Sheridan was an aide to former U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy during the

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investigations by the Justice Department which led to Hoffa's conviction.

Also at the Chicago hearing, Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara testified that he had been a "messenger" in an attempt to get Partin to sign an affidavit that illegal wire-tap evidence had been used to convict Hoffa.

THE CHICAGO hearing ended with the presiding judge ruling that Hoffa did not deserve a new trial.

During the hearing, O'Hara said that Baldwin, who was O'Hara's campaign manager in the judge's unsuccessful campaign to unseat Garrison in 1965, contacted him concerning Sheridan. The judge said that Baldwin told him Sheridan was preparing a special program for the National Broadcasting Co. on Garrison's probe.

O'Hara said that Baldwin initiated a meeting between Strate and Sheridan.

After his appearance before the grand jury today, Sheridan said that his meeting with Strate came after Judge O'Hara told him he had "information that would be very helpful concerning the Garrison investigation."

"I DID NOT know that Strate would be at the meeting," Sheridan said. "Strate offered me Pershing Gervais. I told him before he went any farther I wanted to know what he wanted from me."

"He told me he wanted Hoffa out of jail," Sheridan said. "He wanted me to give him information about bugging and wiretapping and Chattanooga (the scene of Hoffa's trial for jury-tampering.)"

Sheridan said, "I told him that there was no bugging or wiretapping in Chattanooga. That was the end of it."

Baldwin would only say, "I have no comment about this unfortunate affair."

Gervais told reporters, "I don't have the slightest idea what this is about."